

Meeting Notes

Land Use Information Accessibility Advisory Group

April 26th, 2006

Chairman Walter Alcorn welcomed the members and brought the Advisory Group meeting to order. The Group members, County staff and other meeting attendees (which included Fairfax County Planning Commission Members) introduced themselves.

Chairman Alcorn discussed the purpose of the Advisory group and the members agreed to meet monthly on a Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm, which does not conflict with a Planning Commission meeting.

David Molchany, Deputy County Executive for Information Departments at the Fairfax County Government welcomed the members and briefly outlined the meeting agenda.

The first agenda item for the group was an overview of the land use process. Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) staff Barbara Byron and Fred Selden reviewed the comprehensive plan, rezoning and zoning ordinance amendments process. The discussion also included and explanation of proffers.

Advisory Group Member Linus Upson noted that the County does not seem to track proffer compliance electronically after the development process has ended. Ms. Byron stated the County is beginning a new system

development effort to capture and track proffers beyond the development process to ensure compliance. Mr. Upson also noted that public comments were not tracked and asked questions about data and how it is stored and utilized in the current systems. Mr. Alcorn indicated that issues such as these would be looked at further as the group continues to meet.

Ms. Byron stated that not everything in the process goes online due to system storage and staff constraints. But there are other sources of information beyond the County site, such as developer sites that are created specifically for projects.

Michelle Brickner and Stephen Garnier staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) outlined the preliminary plan, construction plan and building and trade permitting process.

Ms. Brickner discussed the Plans and Waivers System (PAWS) system and LDSNet (online Land Development System Component on the Fairfax County Web site) use and capabilities as she reviewed the preliminary plan and construction plan processes.

Mr. Garnier also discussed improvements to the building and trade permitting process as well as improvements to the online data available for the process because of the new Fairfax Inspections Database Online (FIDO) system. FIDO was implemented 3 weeks ago. It was noted by one of the constituents attending the meeting (Fran Wallingford) that she had used the new online FIDO portal and found it very helpful.

During the DPWES discussion, staff noted where information does actually exist already online in response to questions by the Advisory Group.

Jeanne Wright of the Department of Information Technology (DIT) reviewed the capabilities of the current LDSNet online portal. The data displayed on this portal is from the County's Land Development System (LDS).

Tom Conry gave a quick overview of the "My Neighborhood" portal functionality that is now available on the Fairfax County Web site. "My Neighborhood" is a new application which relates various layers of GIS information to an address or area of the County.

Dave Molchany and Chairman Alcorn stated that due to time constraints the final two agenda items for the meeting - a review of new LDSNet functionality currently being developed and new Web pages for the Advisory Group itself - would be addressed at the next meeting

Mr. Molchany also handed out a copy of the Charter to the members and added to Mr Alcorn's opening comments about the purpose of the Advisory Group. He noted that this group was formed to give staff advice from citizens themselves to help staff make land use information more accessible to average Web site users. He encouraged the group members to use the current online portal functionality themselves and begin thinking about improvements.

Mr. Molchany stated that the advice from this group and the final report to the Board that it produces would help to guide the County's future IT budget investments in the Land Development System's online portal functionality.

Mr. Alcorn adjourned the meeting, the next meeting will be the 17th of May at 7:00. The room location will be announced before the next meeting.

Advisory Group Members * in Attendance:

**Walter Alcorn - Chairman
Judith Anderson – League of Women Voters
Allison Anderson - EQAC
Anne Kanter – ITPAC
Vic Mukai – Federation of Citizens Associations
David Kochendarfer – Sully District
Linus Upson – Providence District
Jon Lindgren – NVBIA**

*** Some members have been nominated but not yet confirmed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Confirmation will occur on May 1st.**

Not Present

David Dale – Mount Vernon District

Not Nominated

**Northern Virginia Technology Council Member
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Member**